

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SNYDER, Victor F. (Democrat)
Representative, 2nd District, Arkansas
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Medford, Oregon - 27 September 1947

Home: Little Rock, Arkansas

Marital Status: Married (Betsey)

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: Willamette Univ, B.A., '75; Univ of Oregon, M.D., '79; Univ of Arkansas, J.D., '88

Military: U.S. Marine Corps, 1967-69; Vietnam Vet

Profession: Public official; physician; lawyer

Political: Arkansas Senate, 1990-present. In 1996 defeated Bud Cummins (R) for the seat of retiring Rep Ray Thornton (D) with 52% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 57% of the vote and in 2002 with 100%, facing only token opposition.

Rep Snyder is a moderate Democrat who ran on a reform platform favoring bipartisan solutions. Believes that Congress should balance the budget; thinks the defense budget contains some unnecessary and expensive weapons programs like the B-2. In 105th Congress, participated in DoD Cooperative Threat Reduction Program partial elimination of former Soviet Union missile launcher at Pervomaysk, Ukraine.

In the 106th Congress, rejected the notion of moving Little Rock's C-130 training mission to Keesler Air Reserve Base in Mississippi. Believed that Little Rock was the most cost-effective choice for C-130J training. Has worked for facilities upgrades and quality of life improvements at Little Rock AFB. Requested a report to determine if the VA has been rationing care for veterans with Hepatitis C in response to complaints by veterans about access to diagnosis and treatment. Supports opening Cuban markets to food and medical exports. During FY00 posture hearing, posed question to Sec/AF Peters regarding defense of troops against chemical biological threats. Supports waivers allowing people with no military service to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the 107th Congress, expressed support for another round of base closings and introduced the Military Infrastructure Transformation Act of 2001 to bring the question of excess military facilities back into the defense debate. Supports easing restrictions in present law related to concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation. Urged the US to commit the resources to redevelop Afghanistan. Supports the Pine Bluff Arsenal as the site for a government-owned vaccine production laboratory. Said the US is paying too little attention to improving security at US embassies around the world. Supported a GAO investigation into possible misconduct by high-ranking National Guard officials. Objected strongly to the inclusion of language in the FY03 DoD auth that he said would jeopardize wilderness study areas beneath the air space of the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR). Additional: Obtained a law degree but never practiced. As a family practice doctor worked in overseas missions in Thailand, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Honduras. Member, C-130 Modernization Caucus, House Navy/Marine Corps Caucus, New Democrat Coalition, and Military Veterans Caucus. Married 6Jul03 to the Rev Betsy Singleton, a Methodist minister.

AF Bases: Little Rock AFB, Reserve Forces

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Total Force (Ranking); Readiness
VETERANS' AFFAIRS